IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A keypad comprising:

one or more keys, each key including a contact surface and being associated with a primary input selection and three or more secondary input selections, wherein each secondary input selection is associated with a corresponding one of a plurality of switches; and

a selection indicator coupled to the plurality of switches and adapted for detecting one of a primary input selection and a secondary input selection, when the key is actuated, wherein one of the secondary input selections is indicated when only a corresponding one of the plurality of switches is engaged, when the key is actuated, and a primary input selection is indicated when any combination of more than one of the plurality of switches are engaged, when the key is actuated

wherein the corresponding one of the plurality of switches associated with each of the secondary input selections is in a direct vertical alignment with ~~the~~ a portion of the contact surface associated with ~~the~~ a particular secondary input selection, where the plurality of switches are positioned and arranged horizontally relative to one another.

2. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 wherein the selection indicator is adapted for indicating a primary input selection when the combination of more than one of the plurality of switches are engaged, substantially simultaneously, when the key is actuated.

3. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 wherein said selection indicator includes a processor coupled to the plurality of switches of the one or more keys.

4. (previously presented) A keypad in accordance with claim 3 wherein said keypad further comprises a memory element for storing one or more sets of prestored instructions used by the processor in detecting the selection of a primary input and a secondary input.

5. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 wherein the one or more primary input selections associated with each of the one or more keys substantially include numeric characters.

6. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 wherein the primary input selections are primarily associated with number entry.

7. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 wherein the three or more secondary input selections associated with each of the one or more keys substantially include non-numeric characters.

8. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 wherein the secondary input selections are primarily associated with text entry.

9. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 further comprising a mode selector coupled to the selection indicator, said mode selector adapted for distinguishing between a number entry mode and a text entry mode, wherein when in text entry mode the primary input selections for the one or more keys substantially include numeric characters and the secondary input selections for the one or more keys substantially include non-numeric characters, and wherein when in number entry mode a secondary input selection detected for at least one of the one or more keys will be replaced by the corresponding primary input.

10. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 wherein one or more of the secondary input selections for at least one or more of the one or more keys is associated with multiple different input selections, wherein detecting the selection of the secondary input selection associated with multiple different input selections selects a first one of the associated multiple secondary input selections, and wherein detection of repeated sequential selections of the secondary input selection associated with multiple different input selections cycles the original input selection between the associated multiple secondary input selections.

11. (previously presented) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 wherein the contact surface of each of the one or more keys has a plurality of corners, wherein each of the plurality of switches corresponding to each of the secondary input selections are substantially located at a corresponding one of the corners of the contact surface.

12. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 11 wherein the contact surface for at least some of the one or more keys is a triangular shape, having three corners.

13. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 12 wherein the orientations in one or more directions of adjacent ones of the one or more keys are not aligned.

14. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 13 wherein adjacent ones of the one or more keys having a triangular shape are oriented in opposite directions.

15. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 1 wherein said keypad is incorporated as part of a portable electronic device.

16. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 15 wherein said portable electronic device is a wireless communication device.

17. (original) A keypad in accordance with claim 16 wherein said wireless communication device is a cellular telephone.

18. (previously presented) An electronic device with a keypad comprising:

a key associated with a primary character having

a first contact associated with a first secondary character,

a second contact associated with a second secondary character, and

a third contact associated with a third secondary character;

the first contact, the second contact and the third contact being positioned and arranged horizontally relative to one another; and

the key including a contact surface having a portion associated with each of the primary character, the first secondary character, the second secondary character and the third secondary character, where the portion of the contact surface associated with each of the secondary characters is in a direct vertical alignment with the associated contact;

wherein closure of only one of the first contact, the second contact and the third contact during a predetermined time period enters the associated secondary character into the electronic

device; and

wherein closure of two or more of the first contact, the second contact and the third contact during the predetermined time period enters the primary character into the electronic device.

19. (previously presented) A method of detecting the selection of one of a plurality of key inputs associated with a single key, where said key actuations include a primary input selection and three or more secondary input selections, said method comprising:

monitoring the state of three or more switches horizontally positioned and arranged relative to one another, each switch being associated with and directly vertically aligned with a corresponding one of the three or more secondary input selections;

detecting a key actuation;

if only one of the switches is engaged when the key actuation is detected, indicating the selection of the secondary input positioned in direct vertical alignment with the engaged switch; and

if any combination of a plurality of switches is engaged, when the key actuation is detected, indicating the selection of the primary input.

20. (original) A method in accordance with claim 19 wherein the determination of any combination of a plurality of switches being engaged, when the key actuation is detected, includes a determination that any combination of a plurality of switches is engaged, substantially simultaneously, when the key actuation is detected.

21. (original) A method in accordance with claim 19 wherein the primary input selections are substantially associated with numeric characters and the secondary input selections are substantially associated with non-numeric characters, said method further comprising detecting a mode selection, which distinguishes between a number entry mode and a text entry mode, and replacing secondary input selection indication with a primary input selection indication, when in number entry mode.

22. (original) A method in accordance with claim 19 wherein one or more of the secondary input selections for at least one or more of the one or more keys is associated with multiple different input selections, said method further comprising detecting the selection of the secondary input selection associated with multiple different input selections, selecting a first one of the associated multiple

secondary input selections, detecting repeated sequential selections of the secondary input selection associated with multiple different input selections, and in response to repeated sequential selections, cycling the original input selection between the associated multiple secondary input selections.